

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02552 091933Z

62

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-04

DRC-01 /210 W

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R 091820Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5999

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: LOS

REF: STATE 036434, 053206, 068573; AND STATE A-1715

1. SUMMARY: DURING LUNCH APR 8 WITH HEAD OF GOA LOS WORKING GROUP, HUGO CAMINOS, AND LOS EXPERT, HORACIO BASABE, EMBOFFS, AS INSTRUCTED, PRESENTED GOA OFFICIALS WITH US POSITION PAPERS AND PROPOSED DRAFT US LOS ARTICLES. SCIATT OUTLINED ORALLY US POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AREAS BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEA AND ELICITED GOA VIEWS ON SUBJECT. EMBOFFS WERE ASSURED BY ARGENTINE LOS REPS THAT GOA WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER WITH VISITING US LOS EXPERTS AND FINDS APR 24 DATE SATISFACTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING LUNCH WITH GOA LOS EXPERTS ON APR 8 EMBOFFS, AS INSTRUCTED, GAVE ARGENTINES US POSITION PAPERS AND PROPOSED DRAFT LOS ARTICLES. WITH EXCEPTION OF US PAPERS ON ISSUE OF OCEAN RESEARCH, ARGENTINE UN MISSION IN NEW YORK HAD PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 02552 091933Z

VIOUSLY OBTAINED DOCUMENTS AND FORWARDED THEM TO FONMIN.

GOA EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALSO BEEN SUPPLYING FONMIN LOS TEAM WITH TRANSCRIPTS OF LOS RELATED CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY GIVEN BY US LOS EXPERTS. IN SPITE OF REDUNDANCY OF EMBASSY CHANNEL, ARGENTINES EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MATERIALS AND INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING MATERIAL IN THIS MANNER AS A BACKSTOP TO THEIR REGULAR CHANNELS.

3. SCIATT, PER INSTRUCTIONS IN A-1715, GAVE ORAL SUMMARY OF US POSITION ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AREAS BEYOND

THE TERRITORIAL SEA. BOTH CAMINOS AND BASABE COMMENTED THAT, WHILE IN MANY OTHER AREAS COMPARABLE US-GOA INTERESTS LEAD TO SIMILAR POSITIONS ON LOS ISSUES OR AT LEAST NEGOTIABLE ONES, US POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WAS GREATLY AT VARIANCE WITH ARGENTINE LAW. BASABE NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION IN AREA BETWEEN TERRITORIAL AND HIGH SEAS, GOA HAS FOUND THAT LA'S ARE IN CLOSE AGREEMENT THAT PRIOR APPROVAL RATHER THAN PRIOR NOTIFICATION IS IN LA'S INTEREST AND FORESEES HARD BARGAINING ON THIS ISSUE.

4. EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN IN USG, OCCASIONED BY VIEW EXPRESSED BY SOME NATIONS, THAT CARACAS MEETING WAS TO BE A NEGOTIATING SESSION THAT WOULD LEAVE SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS FOR FUTURE LOS MEETINGS. EMBOFF STRESSED TO GOA REPS US HOPE THAT THE CARACAS MEETING PRODUCE DECISIONS ON IMPORTANT LOS ISSUES RATHER THAN BEING MERELY A NEGOTIATING FORUM. BASABE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH US VIEW, BUT LEFT EMBOFFS WITH IMPRESSION THAT GOA EXPECTATIONS FOR DECISIONS IN CARACAS NOT VERY GREAT.

5. BOTH CAMINOS AND BASABE AGREED THAT APR 24 DATE SUITABLE TO GOA. CAMINOS ASKED THAT WE TRANSMIT TO HIM NAMES OF VISITING US LOS EXPERTS AND THEIR EXACT SCHEDULES AND TOPICS OF SPECIAL INTEREST ASAP; EMBOFF AGREED TO DO SO.

6. AMBASSADOR HUGO CAMINOS, RECENTLY NAMED CHIEF OF THE GOA'S LOS WORKING GROUP (CHAIRMAN BY CAMINOS IT HAS REPS FROM ALL GOVT AGENCIES WITH LOS INTERESTS), IS A FORMER LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE FONMIN AND VERY EXPERIENCED IN LOS MATTERS. WHEN ASKED IF HE, BY VIRTUE OF PRESENT POSITION, WOULD HEAD ARGENTINE LOS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 02552 091933Z

DELEGATION, CAMINOS ADMITTED THAT IT WAS A POSSIBILITY. GIVEN HIS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US, HIS APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF GOA DELEGATION TO CARACAS WOULD BE A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT. EMB WILL POUCH BIO MATERIAL ON CAMINOS TO ARA/APU FOR TRANSMISSION TO D/LOS.

7. HORACIO BASABE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING CARACAS MEETING AS PART OF THE LOS DELEGATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, AGREEMENT DRAFT, MEETINGS, VISITS, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS02552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0796
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740456/aaaabzaj.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 036434, 053206, 068573; AND ST, ATE A-1715
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005